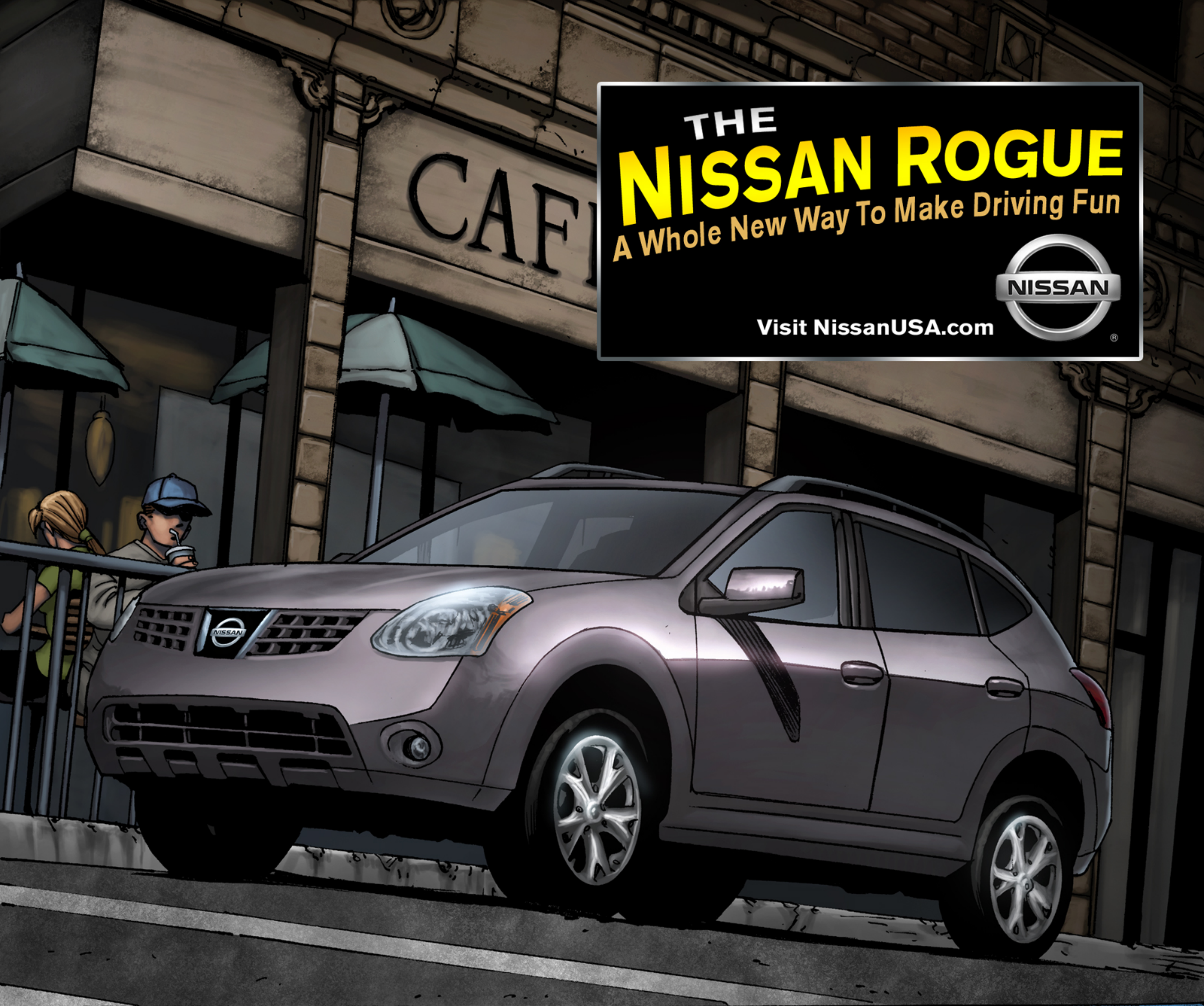


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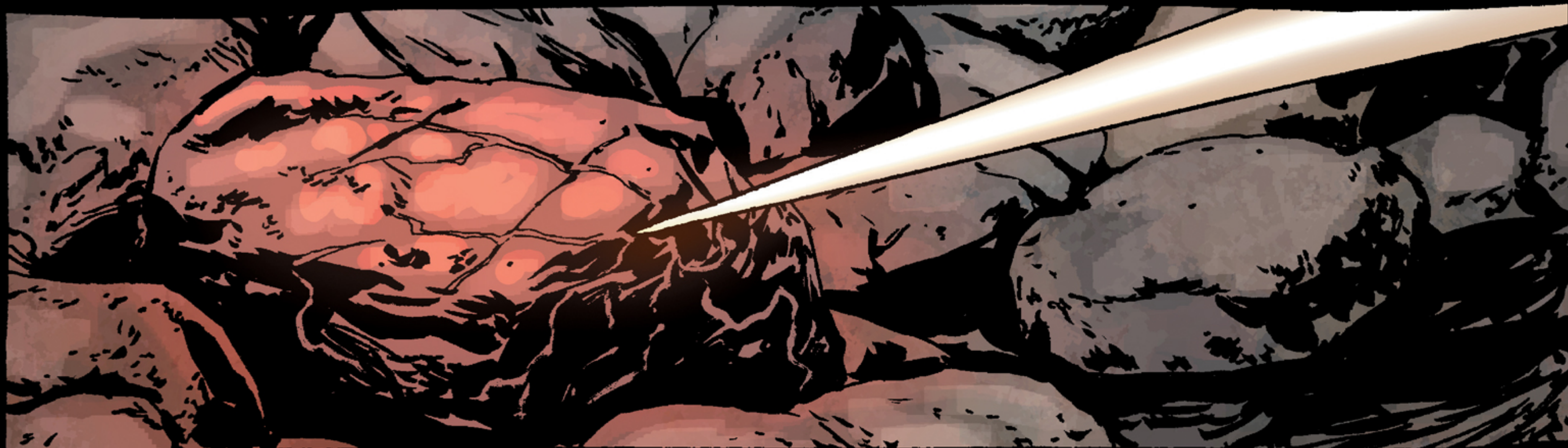
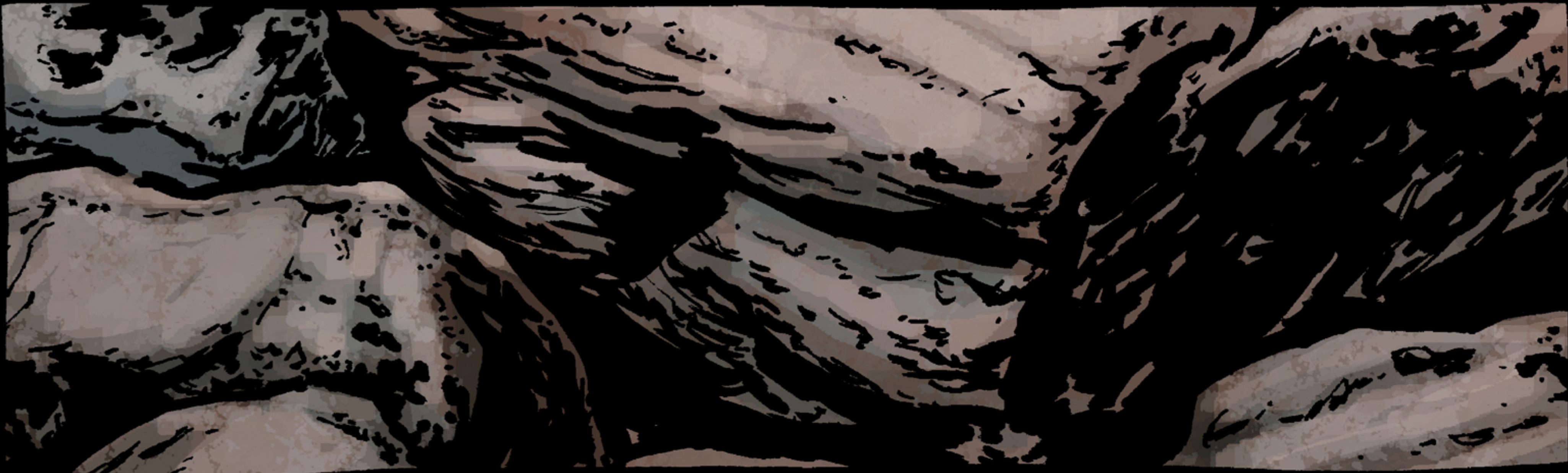
# HEROES

CHAPTER 111

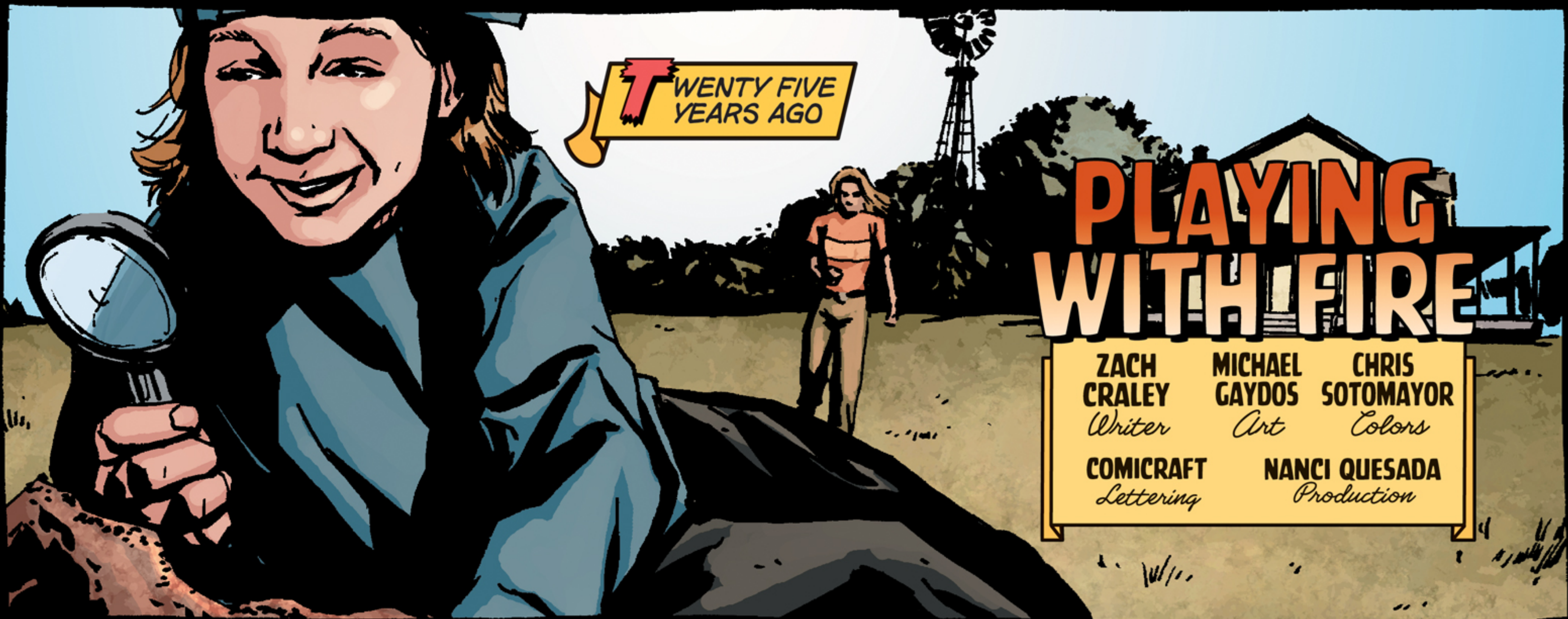
## PLAYING WITH FIRE

Meredith Gordon and her brother Flint have lead a checkered life. Meredith has lost and found her daughter Claire Bennet. She's most recently allied herself as a Company Agent. Flint has become a career criminal and now is in league with Arthur's Pinehearst Company. What does it take to set a character on the road to being a Hero, or the road to being a Villain...





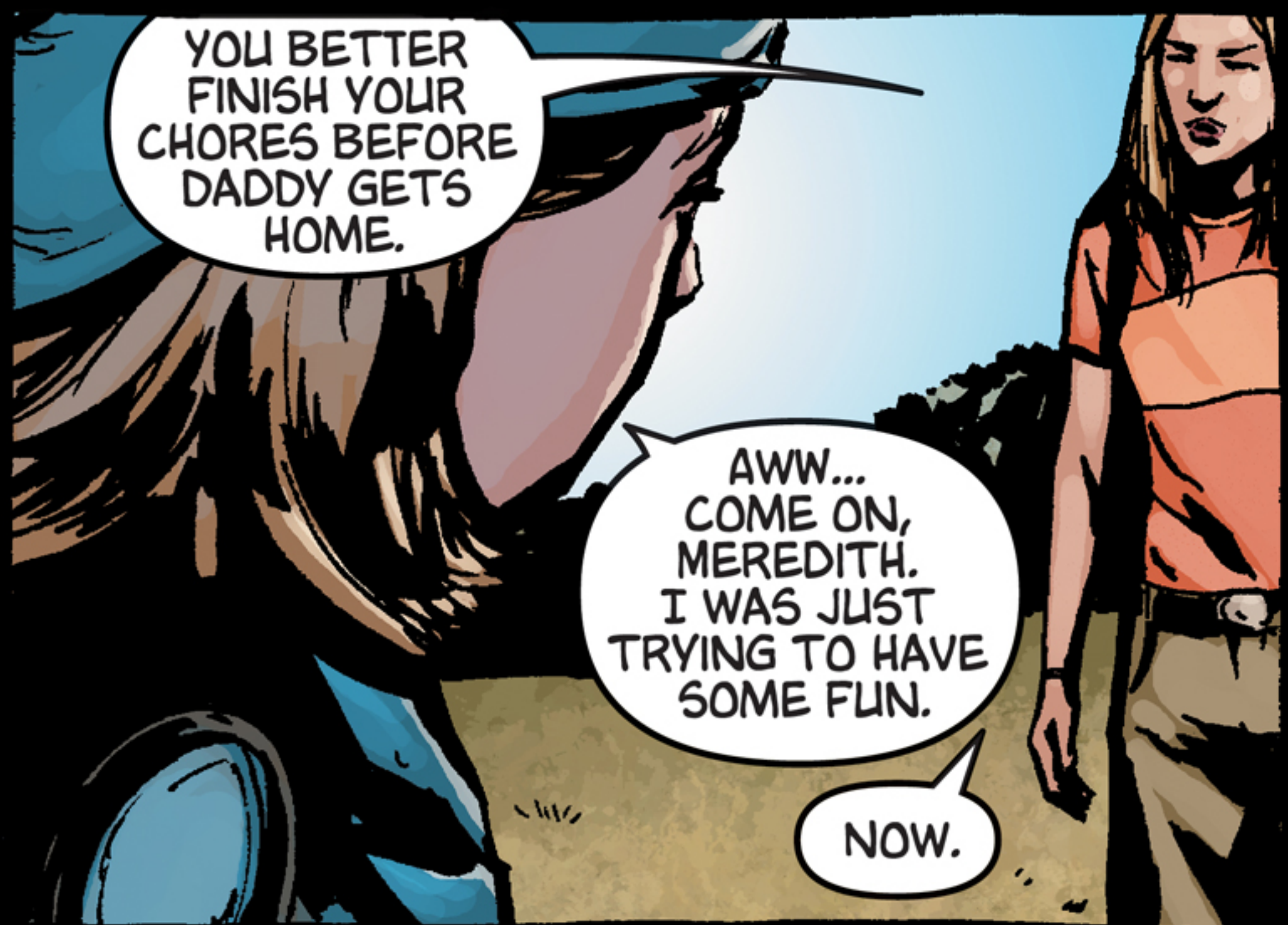




**T**WENTY FIVE YEARS AGO

# PLAYING WITH FIRE

<b>ZACH CRALEY</b> <i>Writer</i>	<b>MICHAEL GAYDOS</b> <i>Art</i>	<b>CHRIS SOTOMAYOR</b> <i>Colors</i>
<b>COMICRAFT</b> <i>Lettering</i>	<b>NANCI QUESADA</b> <i>Production</i>	



YOU BETTER FINISH YOUR CHORES BEFORE DADDY GETS HOME.

AWW... COME ON, MEREDITH. I WAS JUST TRYING TO HAVE SOME FUN.

NOW.



YOU GET ALL THEM CHORES DONE?

...

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION, JUNIOR.



YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME, BOY?!



WE GOTTA DO THIS EVERY NIGHT?

I HAVE TO TAKE MY BELT TO YOU-- FOR YOU TO LISTEN?!

PLEASE DADDY JUST GO TO BED. I'LL FINISH 'EM IN THE MORNING.



AIN'T YOUR PLACE TO MAKE UP FOR HIS SLACKIN', GIRL.

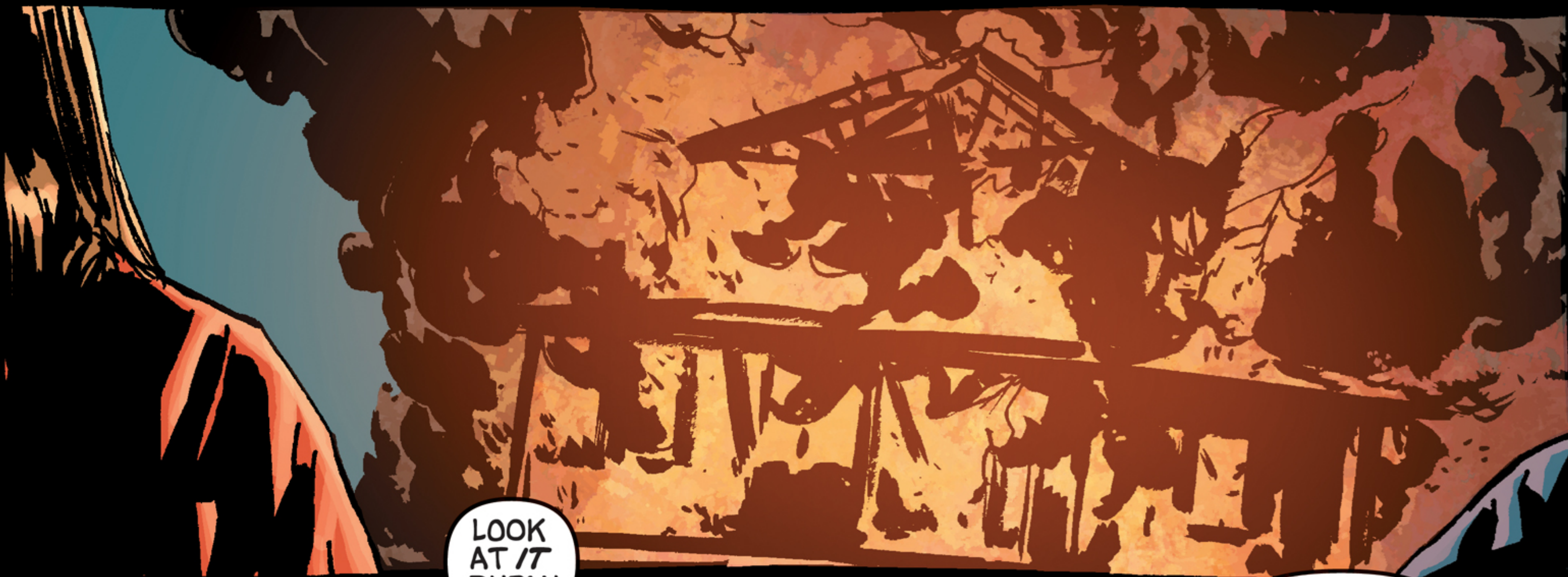


STOP IT!









LOOK  
AT /T  
BURN!

I... I...  
DIDN'T MEAN  
TO...

HOW'D  
YOU...?

I DUNNO.



I WISH  
I COULD DO  
THAT.

UNNNNGHH!

I  
CAN'T DO IT,  
MERE--



YOU HAVE TO LISTEN  
TO ME. YOU CAN'T  
TELL ANYONE WHAT  
HAPPENED.  
PROMISE ME.

YEA,  
I PROMISE.  
JUST TEACH  
ME HOW,  
OKAY?





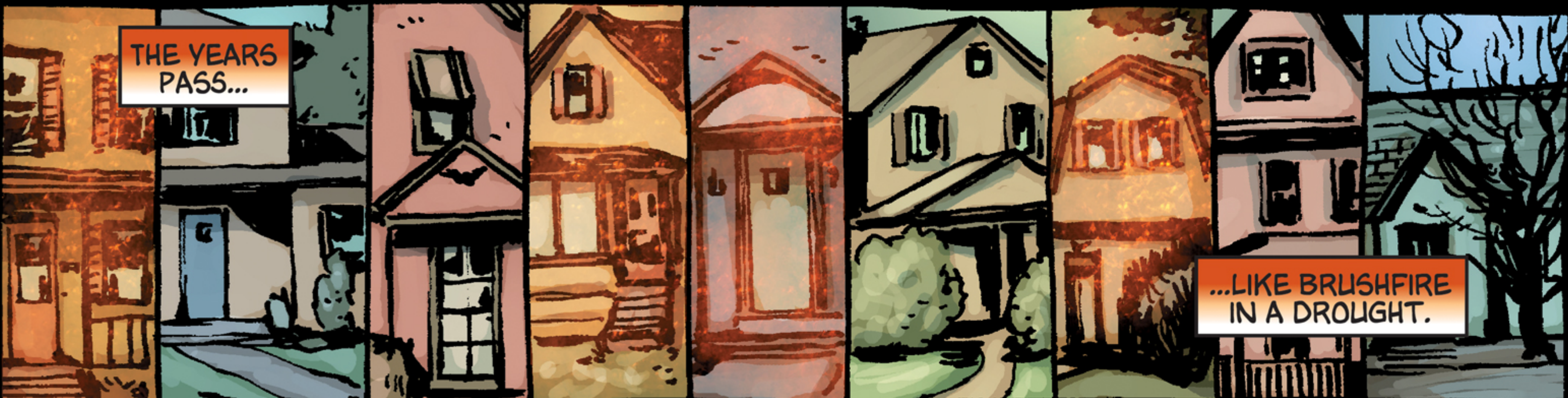
I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE DECIDED IT BEST TO PLACE YOU IN DIFFERENT HOMES. IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I CAN'T SEE HIM!

THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T FIGHT DEAR. I'M SO SORRY. NOW TRY AND GET SOME SHUTEYE.



I WANT MY BROTHER!



THE YEARS PASS...

...LIKE BRUSHFIRE IN A DROUGHT.



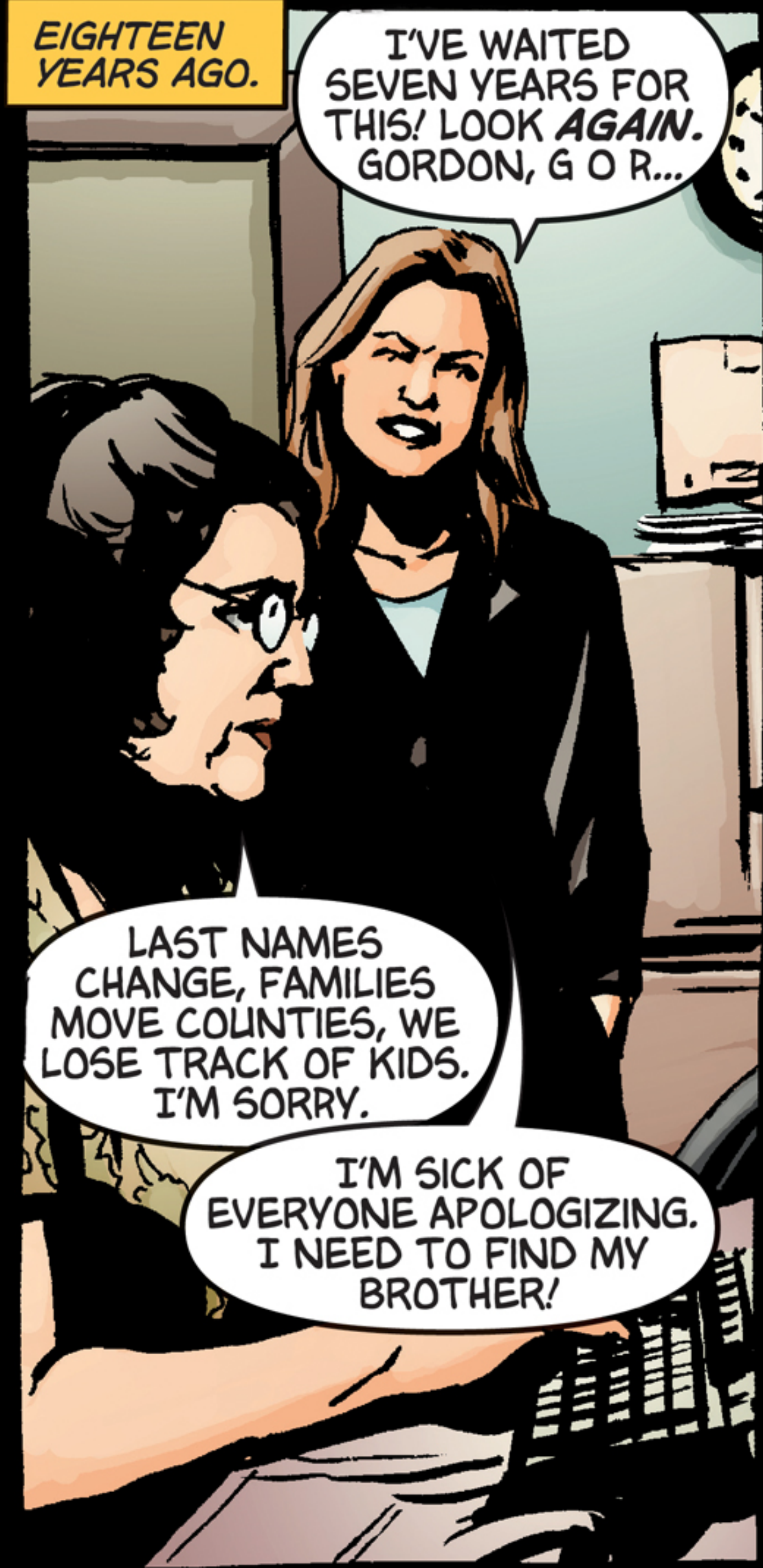
HELD SO TIGHT I THOUGHT I'D DROWN...

REJECTING THE ONLY GENUINE AFFECTION I'M SHOWN...



EVENTUALLY, SIMPLY WRITTEN OFF AS UNGRATEFUL...

ONLY THINKING ABOUT GETTING BACK TO MY BROTHER. PRAYING SOMEHOW THAT'D MAKE ALL THIS GO AWAY.



EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO.

I'VE WAITED SEVEN YEARS FOR THIS! LOOK *AGAIN*. GORDON, G O R...

LAST NAMES CHANGE, FAMILIES MOVE COUNTIES, WE LOSE TRACK OF KIDS. I'M SORRY.

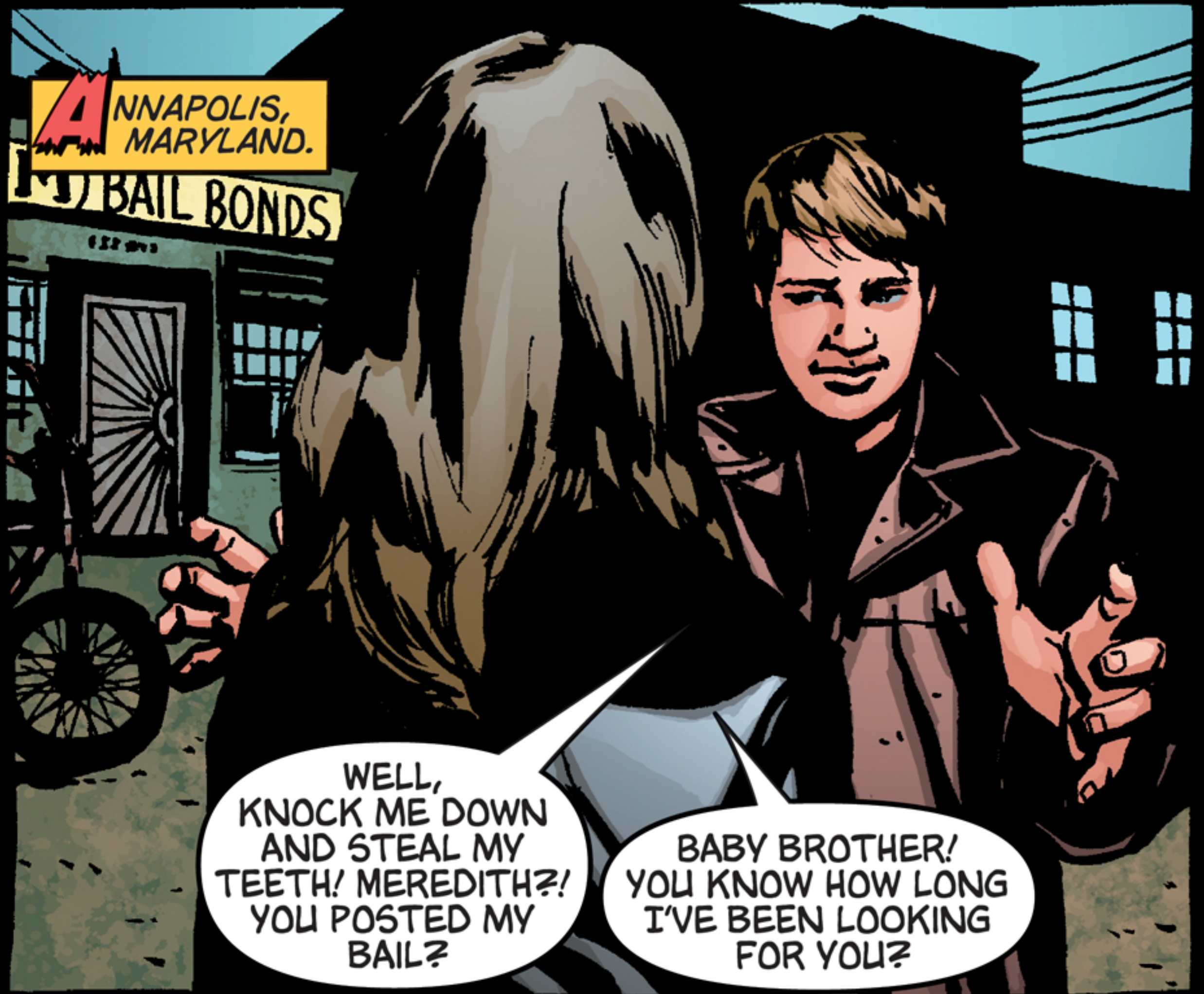
I'M SICK OF EVERYONE APOLOGIZING. I NEED TO FIND MY BROTHER!





AND THEN,  
JUST WHEN YOU  
LOSE HOPE...

MINOR DETAINED AS SUSPECT FOR  
ROBBERY AND ARSON SPREE ACROSS  
VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND.



WELL,  
KNOCK ME DOWN  
AND STEAL MY  
TEETH! MEREDITH?!  
YOU POSTED MY  
BAIL?

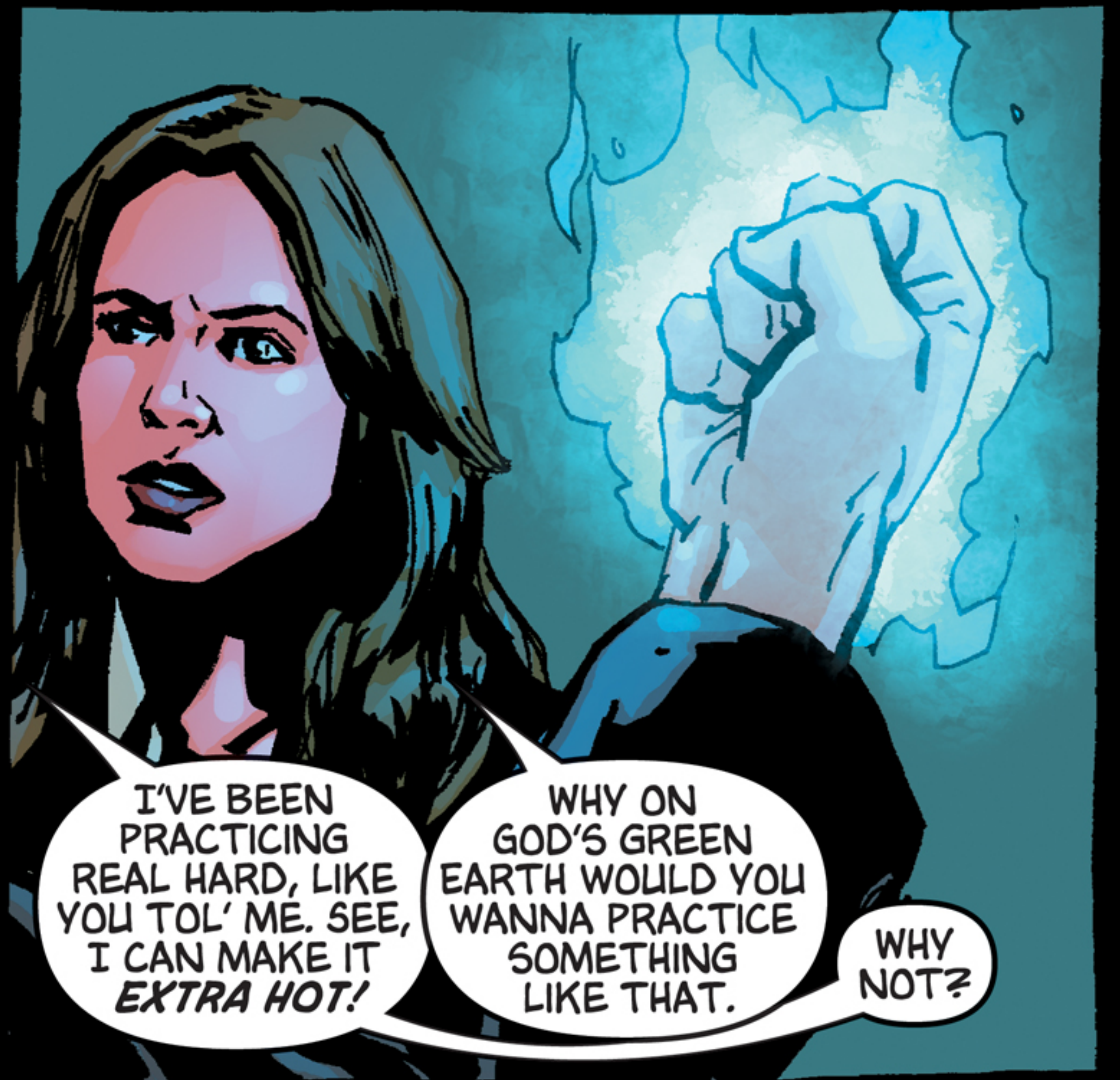
BABY BROTHER!  
YOU KNOW HOW LONG  
I'VE BEEN LOOKING  
FOR YOU?



HOT DAMN!  
YOU SURE  
GREW UP...

I'M STILL  
YOUR SISTER,  
FLINT. DON'T  
BE CRUDE.

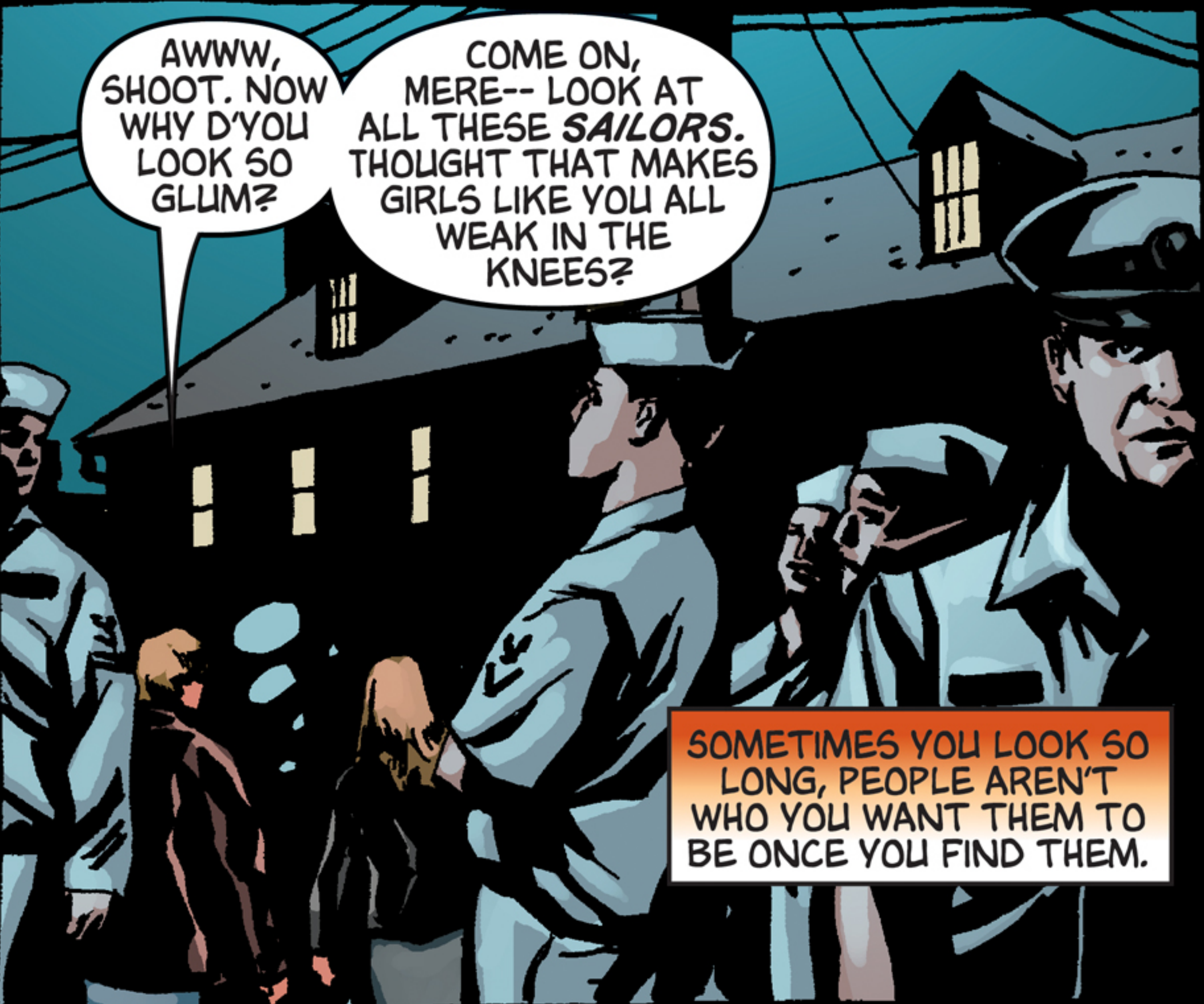
HEY, MERE.  
LOOK WHAT  
I CAN DO!



I'VE BEEN  
PRACTICING  
REAL HARD, LIKE  
YOU TOL' ME. SEE,  
I CAN MAKE IT  
*EXTRA HOT!*

WHY ON  
GOD'S GREEN  
EARTH WOULD YOU  
WANNA PRACTICE  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

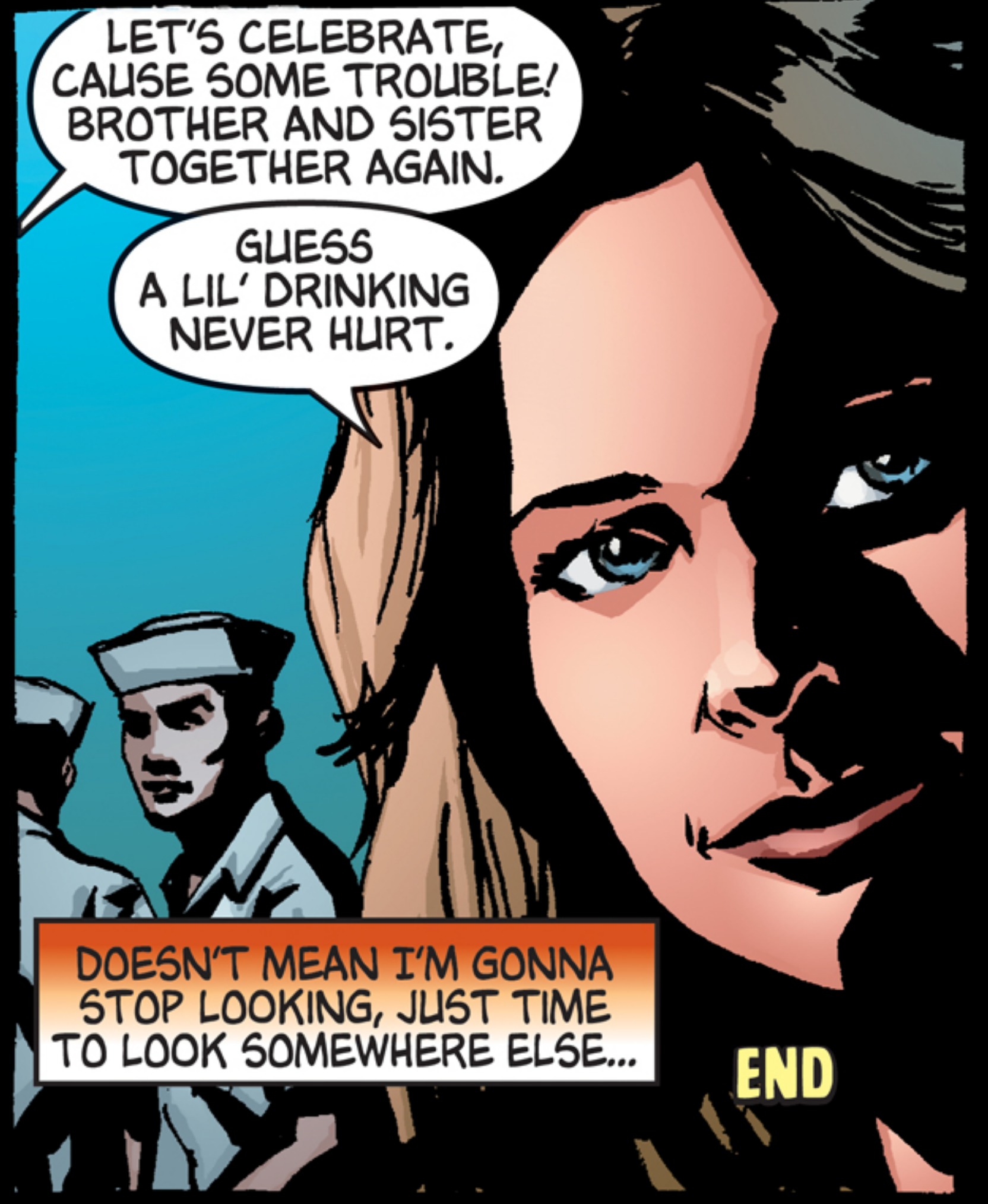
WHY  
NOT?



AWWW,  
SHOOT. NOW  
WHY D'YOU  
LOOK SO  
GLUM?

COME ON,  
MERE-- LOOK AT  
ALL THESE *SAILORS*.  
THOUGHT THAT MAKES  
GIRLS LIKE YOU ALL  
WEAK IN THE  
KNEES?

SOMETIMES YOU LOOK SO  
LONG, PEOPLE AREN'T  
WHO YOU WANT THEM TO  
BE ONCE YOU FIND THEM.



LET'S CELEBRATE,  
CAUSE SOME TROUBLE!  
BROTHER AND SISTER  
TOGETHER AGAIN.

GUESS  
A LIL' DRINKING  
NEVER HURT.

DOESN'T MEAN I'M GONNA  
STOP LOOKING, JUST TIME  
TO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE...

END